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The Innovator

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GSU ARCHIVE
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Candidate Carter Meets With GSU



by Craig Hunt

In what appeared to be a last minute scheduling of her visit on campus Thursday, Feb. 3, Dr. Patricia Carter--candidate for the Dean of Student Affairs and Services--was able to address and meet some of the Governors State University community members. Many who attended were informed of the meeting via a voice mail message sent only one day prior to her visit.

Is this the next Dean of Student Affairs and Services?

In her presentation in room D3409 at 2 p.m., Carter seemed at ease speaking to the group of about 25 or more faculty, staff and students. She came across as a strong advocate for the incorporation of student activities with academic programs as a way to better prepare graduating students for the world of work. Her talk included such areas as providing avenues for activities outside class, assessing students for academic and development needs along with curriculum offerings, providing a variety of faculty and career advisors and preparing students for a global market.

"When cuts come, we (at student services) are the first to be cut," Carter said in reference to budgeting affairs in higher education. She went on to explain that this is why activities need to be tied to the curriculum as much as possible to reinforce their need in academia. Can we afford to promote isolated activities, she asked, in these times of shrinking budgets and the growing needs of students?

Carter has been well respected in the field of student services according to some university officials. In her presentation, she admitted to being in chaotic, changing situations before and maintaining a clear perspective of the goals and priorities of her students. Being able to keep a clear head would be an important asset for the future top dog in student services, which has taken several hits in the past years with budget cuts and personnel changes. Carter said she was not afraid to find the solutions to problems like retaining students by asking other successful institutions what they were doing right.

GSU has recently been concerned about retaining students, especially from the undeclared and non-degree seeking enrollments which have a high turnover rate.

Asked what her first priority would be if selected, Carter suggested doing an evaluation of student affairs and services. During such an assessment, employees should be asking "what is it we are doing and why are we doing it?" she said. It is important to meet with the various units in the division to take a look at what is planned and necessary to make realistic requests. Her message: communication with everyone should be a priority.

It would mean talking to administration, faculty, staff and students and sitting in on Senate and committee meetings. A "total assessment before thinking about change" would be a long term goal.

Such a division-wide meeting--which would bring all employees in at once--has not been done since the position of dean became vacant about two years ago.

Also in her presentation, Carter expounded on her thoughts on issues in higher education today such as diversity, campus crime and discrimination, and cited some examples of the legal questions facing higher education.

Carter also spoke of an environment that exposes students to the programs offered by the university with the understanding that these prospective students would return to GSU or another institution of higher education. Such a program was implemented successfully at Prairie State College, according to Carter. The idea of farming students from high schools is not new to higher education, but is currently used only on a limited basis by GSU.

With her strong background in the student services, Carter seems to be a likely choice, but that was also true of the past candidates. However, something in her favor is that she has been in the local circuit as her resume lists experience with the student services at Chicago State University and Prairie State College, one of feeder schools for Governors State University.

"Dr. Carter knows the area," said Dr. Sven Groennings, Provost for GSU, which is an advantage, but he added that is not the only criteria for the dean's position. Some members of the GSU community thought Carter had some good ideas but seemed doubtful of her chances of being approved of by the university president, Dr. Paula Wolff. Since one of the president's favorite candidates, Saul Benjamin, has dropped out of the running after taking a federal position in Washington D.C., Dr. Carter became a front runner in the competition.

"Dr. Carter is in the running," said Dr. Groennings, "She is not necessarily the only candidate," but is "considered a strong contender" for the position. However, he admitted that Dr. Carter is the only candidate since Benjamin to give a presentation to the GSU community.

The Dean of Student Affairs and Services has to be "a good diplomat among the various constituencies" and be able to address immediately "what the problem is at the moment," Groennings said.

"We would like a professional in student affairs" who understands the special "needs of older and non-traditional students and assert a creative role in relations with community colleges, enrollment management, problem solving and testing writing skills," Groennings said, and someone who uses "imagination on how to better serve students who aren't typical. That person needs to know people and be a good judge of character."

Groennings said that Burton Collins, Clark Defler and Doug McNutt are a good team and have done a good job up to now.

Whatever the choice, there is a growing feeling among many involved with the student services that placing almost anyone in the position would constitute a step in the right direction for the future, amid the growing uncertainty and animosity about the lack of leadership that currently exists.

Shuttle Aids Students

Have you been avoiding taking the train because of that long cold walk from the station to the campus?

Well, freeze no further. In an attempt to address the needs of the non-driving commuting students, the Office of Student Life will be offering a shuttle service to the Metra train station Monday through Friday evening and limited service on Saturdays. The service will start Wednesday, February 16 and go through to the Spring/Summer Trimester if the ridership warrants its use. During this test period, the shuttle service will be free for registered students. Students wishing to use the service must register at least 10 minutes prior to the departure times to check in because space may be limited. (The shuttle is actually a university car.) Several runs will be made if needed to accommodate a large amount of students.

To catch the shuttle at GSU, meet the car in the drive way by the "C" entrance adjacent to the Department of Public Safety/Personnel Office. At the Metra station, look for the university vehicle in the East parking lot of the commuter station.

The shuttle will run three times a night departing GSU at 6:55 p.m., 8:15 p.m. and 10:20 p.m. for the station and departing the Metra station at 7:13 p.m., 8:25 p.m. and 10:32 p.m. On Saturday, the shuttle departs GSU at 8:35 a.m. and 4:20 p.m. and departs the Metra station at 8:55 a.m. and 4:35 p.m.

For a more extensive schedule or other information, contact the Office of Student Life at 534-4550.



Gospel singers hold forth at 3M Club's 1st Annual Gospel Fest, February 4, at GSU.



Linda Leigh hugs attendee at her Biosphere presentation. (Story on page 3.)

NIK'S PIKS

by Nicole M. Seibt

As the Spring season slowly grabs onto our coattails (thanks to Mr. Gopher), the excitement of love is rushing in like water from a broken water main!!

This season of love begins with one of the most adored (or loathed) holidays of the twentieth century. Valentine's Day, as we know, is number one in that group of non-holidays the greeting card industry made up so they could put more "poets of our day" to work. Honestly, I think it was an employment clause in the Starving Artists Fund. But nonetheless, with beautiful landscapes, furry animals, and my favorite, the grumpy old lady, their cards brighten our days when the sun isn't out and give us that special warm fuzzy feeling inside, especially on Valentine's Day. Knowing that there are other people out there who are just as thankful to their partners for being there makes you feel good and that your co-dependency isn't a rare disease afflicting only you.

Remember a time when all the valentines received were hand-made? When you read the cute little "roses are red violets are blue" poem and thought what a great poet your admirer was? The days when putting a little effort into the card meant more than stopping off on the way home for a card you signed but hadn't even read? Or bringing her flowers and candy that didn't come from the street seller at the intersection and the Kiwanis?

On the other side of the coin, can you remember a time when you had no one to share the non-holiday with and felt like a loser because all the television commercials made you think that you were the only person in the world without someone on February 14th? And, you felt inadequate, bought a whole lot of chocolate, candy and ice cream, which you ate while watching a rented video of your favorite love-story?

Ohhh, I know way too many men and women who have fallen into the hands of this monstrous non-holiday. Mature adults who were willing to sacrifice their most prized possessions (mine being my video of "St. Elmo's Fire") just to be a part of the greeting card industry's fantasy. If there was one word to describe the plight this country goes through every time a new year rolls around and the non-holidays begin, it would have to be this: THERAPY.

GOTTA PLOW!

LEGISLATOR VISITS CLASS

by Ann Juttelstad

Representative John Ostenburg, D-Dist. 80, gave a lecture in Prof. Walter Perkins' *Writing For Print* class, and explained his role as a freshman representative in the Illinois General Assembly. Ostenburg, formerly Director of External Affairs for Governors State University, was himself a journalist, and he was able to give the class the benefit of his experience from the perspective of both politician and newsman.

As an experienced educator and businessman, Ostenburg has been appointed to serve on committees dealing with education (including higher education), business and local government. Ostenburg claims the legislature operates in a manner that he had not quite expected when he won the office in 1992. During the 1993 legislative year, 4000 bills were introduced between the House and the Senate. He says there is a close relationship between the General Assembly, which is Democratic in the House and Republican in the Senate, and the Republican governor.

According to Ostenburg, often Democratic bills will pass the House, only to be turned down by the Senate. Then similar bills will be passed by the Senate in order to get the approval of the Republican governor. "It's all politics", he says, criticizing lawmakers' "pre-occupation" in getting reelected. "What is right, what is just, what is fair, what is in the best interest

of the people, is not always what comes out in the legislature."

As a junior member of the Assembly, Ostenburg can see many areas that need to be changed in the state government. He objects to the method of appointing committee chairmen based strictly on seniority, instead of on qualification. He feels that campaign financing laws should be tightened, and that the number of units of government in the state (more than 5000) needs to be reduced. There is an "excess" of taxing bodies in the state, according to Ostenburg, and monies are hard to trace between the various governmental agencies.

Nevertheless, he is able to work within the system in order to get his goals, and the goals of his constituency, accomplished. Ostenburg has sponsored bills to require private insurance carriers to cover drug and alcohol treatment, especially for young people; a bill to create programs for pregnant and parenting teens with substance abuse problems; an ethics bill eliminating the requirements for full financial disclosure statements from state teachers; and an economic development bill for the timesharing of business incubator resources.

The key issues in this election year are school reform and the reduction of property taxes. Ostenburg claims that the school budget crises will not be solved before the election, because that would require an increase in taxes, and the governor has vowed to veto any



Rep. John Ostenburg
(Rep.-D.)

bill which will raise taxes. Edgar wants to get reelected, too. One of the governor's opponents, Dawn Clark Netsch, has proposed an increase in the state income tax and a decrease in property taxes to solve the budget crises, a proposal which Ostenburg calls "the kiss of death" for any candidate.

Ostenburg called for more analytical political writing from journalists, not merely reporting on the outcome of the bills. He feels that an informed public is one that will be able to better make the decisions that will affect the state. To this end, he urged the writing class to keep up on the politics of the state and to investigate carefully the measures and candidates in the upcoming election. And, of course, he urged the class to register and vote.

TOPINKA EYES THE STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE

by T. Dean Fidan

Anyone slightly familiar with politics knows that 1980 was the year when ERA became law, but does anyone remember how difficult it was for women to enter politics those days?

Judy Baar Topinka does. She is the GOP candidate for State Treasurer, twice elected to Illinois House and now serving her third term as Senator for the 22nd District. She was here last week as a guest speaker for the "US and Illinois Elections" class, taught by Dr. Paul Green, on Tuesdays between 7:30 and 10:20 p.m., featuring prominent names in politics in its curriculum this winter.

Topinka may be shy, but she wasn't discouraged by the challenges she encountered in politics as she recalled vividly how difficult it was to make a breakthrough.

"Fourteen years ago, my district was represented by republicans," she said. "They were republican machines in the tradition of the Richard (The First) Daley Machine. People were put out, independents had no place, democrats played ball with the republicans, you could always cut a deal, you could always get some hacks to go down and represent you. My district was basically very ethnic. You kept women barefooted and somewhat pregnant, that sort of a thing."

Undeterred, Topinka went to her party bosses and asked to be a part of the political process. There was a vacancy to be filled. By this time Topinka had spent many years in the area as a newspaper reporter (a graduate of Northwestern University), knew almost everybody, had a good name recognition, did a lot of charitable work, and was a devoted republican of many years who stuffed envelopes—like a good girl was supposed to do.

She was ready for the arena, but the party machinery was still ancient. She was told by several people that she would be an ideal candidate, but "it wasn't her time yet." Besides, they had someone else lined up for the job. A gentleman who had no qualifications but because he was unemployed, he needed to become a state representative. So, he was their candidate. Not stymied, Topinka informed the party bosses that "this time she would like to run." Their answer was, bluntly speaking: "You have no right to run, you are a woman." Another republican gentleman advised her to go home and "bake some cakes."

Topinka did not give up: "So I went to my party bosses and said: 'Look, you know that I am just a poor dumb woman who doesn't realize what is going on here. So why don't you let me run for the kicks... I mean I am not going to win. We all know I am not going

to win. You control everything and you could just crush me. But that's fine. Why don't you just let me play at it, only this once?'"

Her persistence paid off, when they said, "Fine." That was their first mistake. She ran, sticking out as a sore thumb among seven gentlemen. Not only did she win, she won by thirty thousand votes. One of the gentlemen never spoke to her again and it took others many years to accept her.

Topinka says women brought an element of independence and excitement into politics. Most of those gentlemen who fought her tooth and nail back then are now dependent on her legislative savvy, and wonder how they ever made it without her. But for Topinka it meant "mediocrity" was defeated.

Yet, for her, the war goes on. Asked as to why she wants to be a State Treasurer, Topinka replied, "I'm running for the State Treasurer's office which hasn't been held by a republican for thirty-one years, because it is one of the most important offices in the state. I disagree with the democrats who say the office is useless. The last democrat who had the office ran it from an Indiana Motel embezzling money through his trucking company."

"The State Treasurer's office is like a state bank. The Treasurer invests your Money. Everything that is collected goes into the treas-

ury and its then invested to get the best yield for your dollars. The office is not useless. It has a lot of potential. Any private business could not function without its treasury. The office isn't the problem, its the people who run it."

Topinka promises to change all that if elected. She would also like to invest the public funds in Illinois Financial institutions to get the best rates. She would like to maintain link deposit programs and minority-female business investments while speeding up the process of state-of-the-art computerization in the office. Furthermore, she'd change the rules for investments to cover various units of government for standardization, efficiency, and for the sake of common sense.

Besides hard work and progressive activism, she promises to push for legislation to get rid of waste, institute General Accepted Accounting Principles [GAAP] for the state government, and develop better funding of pension funds.

The GSU audience was elated by Judy Baar Topinka. Aside from the dignitaries (President Paula Wolff was on hand) who cheered her on, the students were also impressed by her. A quick poll revealed that she is Hot. One student said: "She is a consummate politician." Another, praised her for her "Stamina and Enthusiasm." Most of the others who were interviewed, simply said: "She is just Great."



Judy Baar Topinka

NATURALIST IN A NEW WORLD

by Avalon Zakazakina

On January 28, Linda Leigh of the Biosphere II Project was present at GSU for a slide presentation and a question and answer session. Biosphere II? Wasn't that where some people were locked in a glass thing in the desert? Indeed it was, but as the many people who attended the program discovered, Biosphere II was, and is, much more.

The Biosphere II Project was designed to sustain humans, animals, plant life, and terrains in a completely closed system. The idea of a completely contained living life system is not a new one. The theory was first proposed and tested as early as the 1920's. In the 1980's, a small module which was not a completely closed system was constructed in Siberia and sustained 3 humans for a few weeks.

Biosphere II was the first attempt ever at 8 people living in a 3,800 square foot "miniature world" for 2 solid years (September 26, 1991 to September 26, 1993). This was a scientific experiment in, theoretically, the best laboratory setting ever: a completely captive audience and environment.

For the building of this entirely new world, obviously tremendous and detailed planning was the first order of business. Leigh, a trained Botanist, was part of the planning

of the Biosphere project from very early on. It was only after she started to work extensively on the project that she decided that she wanted to be a "Biosphereian," or one of the 8 people who would be sealed into the Biosphere II complex.

She was sent all over the world to find the appropriate kinds of organisms and plants that the team had decided would best suit the needs of the individual biomes, or specific areas representing the terrains of different areas on the earth. From Amazonian plants to be shipped back to the US, to dissecting a termite mound in Africa, almost every last bit of plant and organic life in the Biosphere had to be meticulously gathered from around the world and make it back safely to the site near Tucson, AZ.

Before the real experiment of a contained area sustaining life could begin, there were 8 long, hard years of constant planning, calculating, gathering and measuring to be done. The cost of building the Biosphere reached \$150 million dollars. This amount did not even include the cost of running the project, just the planning and building.

About now, you may be asking yourself, "Well, why attempt this at all?" You can be sure that the Biosphere II team was asked this many times along the way. A hint as to why this all happened is in the name of the project: Biosphere II. Are you wondering if you slept

the last few years away and missed the Biosphere I project? You haven't, because you are on Biosphere I right now — the Earth.

That was one of the reasons behind the whole project, to remake the entire earth on a minute scale in order to learn about "the big picture." If we can reproduce the earth in miniature and study it extensively, we can learn things to help us have a better life on this earth, and for the earth to have a better life while we are on it, also. Biosphere I is a completely closed system; all we have to work with on earth is what we have right now. Biosphere II had to be as closed of a system as technology, planning and funding would allow it to be.

Do you remember hearing the rumor that some of the Biosphereians had left the complex, or that they were having food snuck into them to avoid starvation? Many of the things we all may have heard were untrue or only partially true. One of the people inside the complex did leave for a period of six hours to seek medical treatment when she cut the tip of her finger off. Since the humans inside the complex could not expect to begin eating all of their food from the Biosphere plants the very first day, they did have 3 months worth of food present upon closure of the doors in 1991. This food was grown in the Biosphere prior to closure, and was used and replaced over the two-year period.



Linda Leigh

The human inhabitants of the complex would possibly have fared better if they had done some of the things that rumor insisted they did. As it was, they all lost a great deal of weight at one point due to very little food.

As with every new scientific discovery or specialized experiment, Biosphere II has its share of skeptics. It was designed to be a completely closed system. It failed in that category since an air-lock door was opened several times during the closure period. It was designed to have no elements present at the end of the experiment that were not present at the beginning.

It failed here also when oxygen had to be pumped into the complex to raise the oxygen level that had fallen to a dangerously low 14 percent. The oxygen was "disappearing" due to all the concrete in the complex's construction ab-

sorbing the carbon dioxide and retarding the plant's ability to make more oxygen.

While Biosphere II may not have been as perfect as it was planned to be, the experiment is not over yet. Designed for 100 years, the complex still has a long life ahead of it. The next group of Biosphereians gets sealed into the complex on March 6, 1994 for a ten month stay.

There was a great deal of very hard work and hardship for the 8 people who took part in this monumental undertaking. According to the one Biosphereian who has visited GSU as of yet, it was well worth it. She could have left at any time, but said it never crossed her mind for a moment.

As for the main goal of earth study and global awareness, if even five people who heard Ms. Leigh speak on January 28 would change something in their lives to improve the earth, Leigh would probably feel that her work at GSU was successful.

So was this a valid scientific experiment, or a huge waste of time and money? Will we ever really use any knowledge that was discovered or refined in the Biosphere? The real answer is known only in the future, but let's remember that Michelangelo was thought to be crazy, and da Vinci was told his flying machine would never work. You just never know a thing until you try.



After fifteen years of waiting, the Social Work program finally received its accreditation, and celebrated the accomplishment Jan. 26 in the Hall of Governors. Speakers and those in attendance reflected on the years of hard work, and the exciting challenges ahead for the program. Pictured (left to right) are: William Boline, Dr. Sonja Monroe, Dr. Mwalimu Burgest, and Dean Cecilia Rokusek. (Photo by Jodi Bunegar).

Student Assists Jobs Program

Mack D. McGhee, a GSU Criminal Justice student and President of the Criminal Justice Organization, has been selected as the newest employment counselor to join the staff of Prisoner Release Ministry, Inc. PRM is a not-for-profit organization that specializes in placing men and women in employment upon their release from prison.

Cook County Jobs Project, PRM's newest program will be operating out of its south suburban office located at 159 E. 154th street, Harvey, IL. The program is designed to serve ex-offenders who have received their high school diploma or GED, as well as additional training and education in one of the following trades leading to certification: Auto Mechanics, Construction Trades, Electronics, Food Service, Horticulture, Computer science and Welding.

McGhee stated, "In order to reduce the rate of recidivism and to abolish the revolving door syndrome, ex-offenders must be given the opportunity, while incarcerated, to equip themselves with a marketable skill, so that upon their release they can suc-



Mack D. McGhee

cessfully compete in the very competitive labor force."

"Innately all people are good," McGhee said, "but some allow the reality of their environment to dictate their actions. Collectively, as a nation of people we must work hard to change the horrible realities that have been allowed to exist. This program is committed to the task of helping people realize that there is always a greater reality. I am honored and gracious to have the opportunity to be a part of such an organization."

If you have any questions regarding this program contact Mack McGhee at (708) 333-7259.



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Viewpoints

BALKANS: MEDIA UNFAIR TO SERBIA, SAYS PROFESSOR

by T. Dean Fidan

Media is often the target of all sorts of critics. It gets blamed for reporting either too much, too little or simply not enough of the kind of news we want. But can the news-media ever truly compliment our definition of what is news, opinion, and propaganda? As journalists, faced with the Balkan conflict, where do we draw the line between fact and fiction?

With these questions in mind, students listened to an incoming GSU professor (of 200-level Linguistics), Milan Panic, talk about the current events in Yugoslavia, in Walter Perkins' Writing For Print Media class on Jan. 31.

Professor Panic first refreshed our memory about former Yugoslavia. The country was created in 1918, after the allied victory at the end of World War I, as a Kingdom for Serbs, Croats, and Slovenians. Later the nation was renamed Yugoslavia (south-slavs). During WWII, the Slovenians,

Croats, and the Bosnians fought on the side of the Nazis, who eventually lost the war.

Subsequently, a communist Yugoslavia emerged under the leadership of the Partisan J. Broz Tito, himself a Croat, who once again divided the victorious Serbs into six different republics and two autonomous states (Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Kosov and Vojvodina), so to keep them from domineering the Yugoslav federal government. Nearly one million Serbs were killed by the Nazi puppets in the area, but mostly in eastern Croatia and in the Krajina region. Overall about 2.5 million Yugoslavs perished during that war. According to professor Panic, Tito did not punish the Croats and the Bosnians sufficiently for massacring the Serbs, even though the Serbs dominated the political and the military establishment of the twenty million people in Yugoslavia.

"For a long time," said professor Panic emphatically, "the West including the American

media took the anti-Serbian position right after the Gulf War when Saddam Hussein was given the kind of treatment he did or didn't deserve. It seems to be more discussable now than it was then. Well, they had the same media-machinery still going full-speed... and they just applied it to the Serbs. Because they were the next thing."

In 1991, after all the benefits they reaped from the Yugoslav union (e.g. industry), said professor Panic, the Slovenians and Croats decided to become independent countries. Left unmentioned was the fact that in March 1991, it was Serbia's Milosevic who refused to recognize the authority of Yugoslavia, thus effectively dissolving it.

While the westernmost Slovenians split without much resistance from the Yugoslav army, heavy fighting between the Croatian militia and the Serbs in Krajina intensified, nearly destroying Dubrovnik. In March 1992, fighting between the Serb militias and the Bosnian government began, and continues to this day. Moreover, while the Muslims are fighting with the Serbs, they are at the same time fighting with the Croats in that multinational state. In all these conflicts, the much superior Yugoslav military units have joined forces with the Serb insurgents, who had seceded from Croatia and Bosnia, because the latter had declared its independence.

"You know, for a long time you saw a lot of anti-Serbian stuff in the American TV," said Panic, "which was preparing you for giving your rubber-stamp to somebody in your family being sent overseas and maybe getting killed. He may be killing one of the Serbs but he may be sent back in a [body] bag too, right? You had to be prepared for this. What would be the justification for that? Ostensibly, the savagery with which the Serbs went about this war."

Professor Panic tried to enlighten us about the dizzying and gruesome developments of his native land (he is a Serb), but just as important as the points he made were the facts he failed to mention. Facts which include nearly half a million Bosnian Muslims who were uprooted by the Serbs, ten to fifteen people who are daily being killed in Sarajevo, and the rapes and concentration camps holding Muslims.

"They killed everything and everybody, and raped and so on," said Panic. "One of the [media] pictures you saw was a young

Serbian guy, strapped with a rifle, a 26 year old guy, just out there to destroy something. And the opponents, the Croats and Muslims, were always shown as women and children, and old people, even though there was a war between armies...."

One student asked professor Panic, why is it that the media would do such a thing? Unfortunately, class time ran-out and the professor could not go into any more details. He cited a European publication that purportedly alleges to have uncovered a mass-media conspiracy against the Serbs. He promised to give the student a copy when it gets translated.

Another student asked Panic what he thought about the ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy of Russia. He said that we should not readily dismiss him as a buffoon, just yet. "Zhirinovskiy is an important man. He is bound to play an important role in world politics."

Ironically, last week, Zhirinovskiy turned up in Serbia. Amidst cheers, he told the crowd not to fear western bombardments since Russia would come to rescue them. The same Zhirinovskiy, who has been disbanded from almost all of the major capitals of the world, recently tied the knot with the German Nazi Movement, and then, unexpectedly made a surprise appearance in Serbia to honor his earliest supporters, the right wing radical leaders Vojislav Seselj and Zeljko Raznjatovic, if not directly Slobodan Milosevic.

Invariably, there are lessons to be learned from the ongoing war in former Yugoslavia.

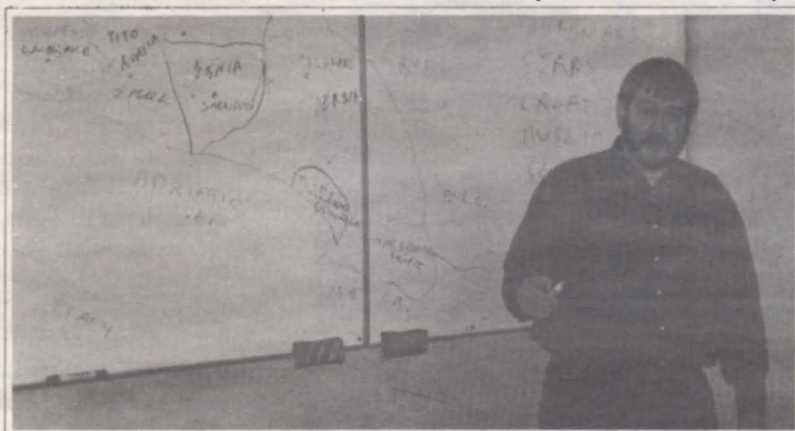
This horrendous conflict has reintroduced the world to genocide for a second time in this century. The United Nations condemned the Serbian aggressors, and it took measures to contain the war. But, it still is the Western media which serves as our eyes and ears right at the front-lines. Traditional values about right and wrong deeply rooted in our psyche may not exempt us from being a bit subjective. But the media shies away from those who feel that "Might Makes Right." Since no matter how mighty that power may be, when it covets, no, annihilates, it's alleged Slavic

brotherhood, yet lays claims to being patriotic, virtuous, and Christian, any one can plainly see the hypocrisy.

In a way, we may be adjusting to all the hypocrisy in the world. Fortunately, we still refuse to give up our right to demand better. We can understand the professor's concerns. He loves his people and most Serbs are probably good people as they are devoted Christians, but Belgrade has forgotten an important lesson essential to all religions: "Vengeance is Mine Sayeth The Lord."



A map of the Balkans



Professor Milan Panic gives his view of the current situation in the former Yugoslavia.

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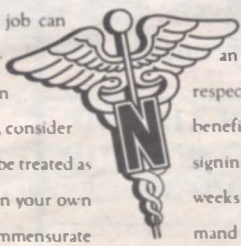
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Divergent Opinions

AFFAIRS OF STATE

The Rise And Fall Of The American Empire Part I

By Terry Crane

Let's face the facts, we have all had the feeling that our society is hitting the skids. All of us have voiced at one time or another that things aren't like they used to be. There seems to be more crime and less people caring about it. Let's be honest, isn't it the sick and twisted scum that get our attention? Don't we need real deviance to move us to some sort of reaction?

We have all heard about kids bringing guns to school, many with tragic results, but how many of us bother to become outraged any more?

Don't wonder when this will all end because it won't. The crime in our society, and deviant behavior will continue to escalate until people understand just what are the root causes of the problems in our society. It seems though, that understanding the causes of the problems in society requires a healthy dose of anger and frustration to move us toward resolutions. What makes us angry anymore?

In the February 1, 1994 edition of the Chicago Sun-Times I found the following: "Boy, 13, Shot in S. Side Classroom;" "More Teens Use Drugs, Fewer Drink, Survey Says;" "Boy, 8, Finds Gun, Shoots Little Sister;" "3-Month-Old Girl Starved To Death;" "Slain Teen's Dad Condemns Guns;" "N. Side Synagogue Doors Burned," and "Teacher Killed By Gunshot Wound."

It seems that there was a time that this would have been a lot of news for one year. Certainly, this may not be an average day as murder and mayhem are concerned; some may have more and some less. However, which of these, if any, makes us angry? Which of these stories might move us at least toward constructive dialogue?

The answer is of course that these kinds of stories do make us angry but perhaps in a way, they don't make us angry enough. Maybe, because these events have become so common, we have become anesthetized to them. What would the deranged, disgusting, savage act be before they are

moved to respond? Will we some day shrug our collective shoulders at the worst possible offenses?

I think that people have been so bombarded by recent escalations in crime that they may think there is nothing they can personally do about it. I think that way too. There are probably many reasons for the rise in crime we see in our society and the idea of identifying them may likewise seem overwhelming. However, there are answers and solutions, especially concerning the rise in crime committed by young people.

It would be hard to argue that crime and deviant behavior has risen dramatically for no ascertainable reason. So, it would be helpful to investigate why people in society (those involved in extreme criminal activity), have devalued human life. Likewise, what are the messages that society is sending concerning the value of human life? These are the questions that we need to ask and find answers to, once our anger and disgust have moved us to act. I will address these questions in Part II.

Have you fallen on your butt in the parking lot yet?

Whether you have or not, you may be wondering why our parking lots and walkways are so icy. As it turns out, the best intentions of the powers-that-be at GSU may not be enough to keep you upright this winter. According to the office of Physical Plant Operations,

there is a shortage of salt right now, and additional supplies of salt will not be available for purchase for 2 to 4 weeks. What salt GSU has left will be used at intersections and hazardous areas. Cinders will be used in all other areas including roads and parking

lots, so leave your white shoes at home 'til after Memorial Day. PPO will be doing additional plowing to try to control the situation. So for now, step carefully and keep in mind that the school is doing the best it can under the circumstances.

RANDOM MUSINGS

By Jason Horlacher

Lately, it seems as though it is no longer "let the punishment fit the crime," but more like "let the crime fit the name."

For example, Senator Bob Packwood stands accused of sexual harassment. If he's "packin' wood," it would stand to reason that he would sexually harass anyone within earshot. The upside of the whole incident is that he will probably be packin' his suitcase and headin' on home.

Example two: Joey Buttafuoco is charged with sodomy. When broken down into syllables, the name itself should have been a fair warning of the impending sexual act, (need I say more?) A little jail time should be all the inspiration he needs to change his last name.

Example three: John Wayne Bobbitt. Breaking his surname into syllables also provides a fair warning. To "bob" something would be to shorten; i.e. a bobbed haircut. "It" is usually the terminology shy people use to refer to their genitalia; i.e. "Hey man, did she touch it?" It only stands to reason, then, that old J.W. knew what was in store for him. If I were Buddy Hackett, I would definitely watch my step.

Finally: Why is it that flashers always fit into one of two categories: a) They are from the Show-Me-State, or b) Their last name is Cox (there actually was a recent case like this)?

On a much lighter note, I think I have found the best weight loss program yet, and it was right under my nose. I call it "The GSU Workout."

Here's how it works: simply go to any department with a simple question, i.e. go to the admissions office and ask where to get a school I.D. They will send you to the office of student life where, if you have a current copy of your class schedule, you will receive an I.D. on the spot (If this applies to you, the workout will not work). If, like most people, you do not have a copy of the class schedule, you will be sent back to the registrar's office to get one. You must then return to the student life office, show them your new schedule, and you will receive an I.D. Of course, the main place that you would use your I.D. is in the library, which is located on the other side of the building, far away from the office of student life. The best part of the whole thing is that, if you can bear the frustration, you will get an excellent workout and it comes free with your paid tuition. Just another one of the many fine services offered here at GSU.

Photo Opinion...

If you could do one thing to improve GSU, what would it be?



Ann Juttelstad, CAS, media communications
I would raise the standard of education and make the curriculum more difficult.



Evan Wallace, Alumni
Have more of a liberal arts curriculum, with more emphasis in art and music and less in computers.



Neil Marolewski, COE, psychology
They don't have to be so greedy in the bookstore...They should give discounts to students.



Ada Middleton, BOG
Because students come from great distances and so many are older adults, I feel developing an on campus residential community would be mutually beneficial for both the students and the university.

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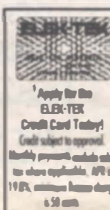
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RAP IS GOOD FOR YOU!

Salt-n-Pepa Very Necessary

Music review by Avalon Zakazakina

This album is typical SNP fare, which is definitely not a bad thing. It combines lyrics about such topics as sex, fidelity, annoying people, and AIDS awareness with the great beat and musical arrangement that people have come to expect from this female trio. Rap and male rap artists have frequently gotten a bad name for too much sexism and ill treatment of women in their songs. While most of the songs on this album either are about sex and sexual relations or mention sex in the song, there is no air of female chauvinism. This album contains the song "Shoop" that you may have heard on the radio. That is about as close as SNP gets to any of the things that their male counterparts are accused of, as they openly ogle and admire the fellas they see. Not only is this song excellent, but it makes sport of all men who con-

sider women simply sex objects by saying, "Oh yeah, we can do that too!"

SNP are part of a group that I consider to be "responsible" rap. Sure I like Dr. Dre and Snoop Doggy Dog as much as the rest of you, but I certainly would not want my children, nor anyone else's, to actually believe some of the things these men describe or advocate. Salt-n-Pepa, along with others, like Queen Latifa, have a much more responsible attitude toward the listening and buying public. This responsible attitude is especially illustrated in the track "Whatta Man," which features the Funky Divas of En Vogue. This song uplifts their version of the ideal man. He is a good mate, an excellent father, a hard worker, an attentive lover, and an all-around great guy. I find this responsible because this lets women know that they should settle for no less in life and men know that women want a

whole lot more out of life than a quick roll in the hay. This is something that our young people, and even our not-so-young people, really need to learn. SNP proves that you can deliver a strong positive message and still have an excellent song that gets air play.

There are 13 selections for your enjoyment on *Very Necessary*. Twelve of them are danceable, singable, grooveable Salt-n-Pepa creations. The 13th is by a group called "We Talk." They are a group of young people from Boston who travel around and teach others about AIDS - how not to get it, what it is, what life with AIDS is like. They do a short skit called "I got AIDS." It depicts the plight of a 16-year old girl and her earth-shaking discovery of being HIV positive. The fact that SNP gave room on their album is proof positive that they are "responsible" indeed. Since they have 12 other fantastic songs on the album, I don't think they were just hungry for tracks and stuck this in to be "Politically Correct." I think they really want to save lives.

If you are a rap lover, or want to hear positive uplifting music in a truly in-your-face fashion, this is the album for you. If you want to peek into the minds of these women, and find out what they think life is all about, this is also the album for you. If you want to be entertained and educated in a not-too-heavy fashion, you guessed it, this is the album for you. *Very Necessary* is one of the most aptly named albums I've heard thus far.

GRADE A+.



The Arts

SCHINDLER'S LIST

A movie review by Karen Schoenberg

Forget all your preconceived ideas about a Steven Spielberg film, because *Schindler's List* is unlike anything Spielberg has directed in the past.

An unflinching, relentless look at a bleak time in history, the film is thankfully missing typical Spielberg film techniques. There are no long emotional close-ups, no manipulative music score. *Schindler's List* doesn't manipulate the audience, it doesn't have to. The screenplay, the acting, and the beautiful black and white cinematography are completely spellbinding.

Based on fact, the film revolves around the story of Oskar Schindler, a Polish businessman who initially profited off the German invasion of Poland in 1939. Taking advantage of the Jews who were forced to live in a small area of Krakow called "the ghetto," Schindler created a cheap labor force for his factory. He courted the Nazis and was happy with his success, until he slowly began to understand how horrific the war had become.

Eventually, Schindler would use the money he made from his factory to buy the freedom of hundreds of Jews. For a price, each name on his list of "essential workers" would be spared the fate of a train ride to Auschwitz. "The list," says Schindler's accountant (superbly underplayed by Ben Kingsley) "is life".

But Schindler's transformation from profiteer to philanthropist is only part of the story. The most poignant and memorable scenes in the film revolve around the struggles of the Jewish people as they adjust to the harsh realities of life in the ghetto, and finally, in the Polish concentration camps. Unlike other films about the Holocaust, Spielberg confronts these realities head on, and the result is often heartwrenching. But it is also compelling, and every main character in this film, good or evil, is fascinating.

As the credits rolled at the end of this film, one could hear a pin drop in the theatre, such is the power it has over its audience. In terms of film-making this movie is monumental, an absolute "must see" for anyone interested in the medium. Because of its graphic, documentary-like style, it seems nothing short of a miracle this film was made by a big name, big budget, American director. But there is no doubt that for Spielberg this was truly a labor of love, and in these days of rising neo-nazism and "new revisionism," any accurate account of the Holocaust takes on a new importance.

This film will no doubt be nominated for Academy Awards in every major category this year. Spielberg, who has long been snubbed by the Academy, will finally have his day in the sun, and most deservedly so.

Text by William R. Kolstad

More Blues For You

Photos by Rita D.

As a result of my request for suggestions of blues acts and places to see, I was invited to see a band that is starting to become a regular part of the southside blues scene. Little Whitey and the Castlerockers, who derived their name from one of their favorite hangouts, played at McPutts recently. A four piece group that puts out a lot of sound, these guys boast a roster of musicians that they have played with that includes Bo Diddley, Pop Staples, John Lee Hooker, Buddy Miles, James Cotton, Jimmy Johnson, Byther Smith, and many others.

I would dare to say that this band is still trying to blend the vast influences that the players bring to the bandstand. Their songs reflect the diverse background of southern delta blues to the mean street sound of

Chicago in the 50's and 60's. Little Whitey, the leader, plays a blistering guitar between his vocals that can get low down like the home of the blues. Whitey also plays the "Mississippi saxophone" (the harmonica to us), with the best of them in a smooth style that reminds me of Paul Butterfield. Johnny "Butane" Johannes was a founding member of the No Mercy Blues Band, plays guitar in a very traditional Chicago Blues style. Bruce Felgen adding rhythm with his bass guitar. Finally, giving the beat to the music is Glenn Wierzbicki on drums.

The band is highly charged on stage, playing each song with the flavor that the original artist gave it. This makes for an interesting show, complete with Whitey

(and harmonica) walking into the seats while the band played on. He stopped a few times to blast out a short solo lead before he wandered on through the place. Finally, he jumped up on top of the bar, almost hitting his head on the low clearance, continued his way down the edge of the bar, jumped off and strutted back to the stage.

Though Little Whitey and the Castlerockers have only been playing for a short while together, they do justice to the old blues songs, and I'm sure that they will be working on more before too long.

For those of you who might be looking for some upcoming things to do, let me tell you a couple that I will be covering in future issues. On Friday, February 11th, McPutts which is located on Waverly avenue just half a block north of 147th street in Midlothian, will present Jon Southern and his band. Jon Southern hails from Indianapolis and he is a very talented guitarist who plays the blues very much in the style of the Allman Brothers and the Marshall Tucker Band. Jon gives a warm, southern feeling in the blues that he plays, especially the slide guitar numbers. His playing is something to be seen and definitely heard.

Also at McPutts on Saturday, February 12th, Chicago area blues group The No Mercy Blues Band will return. No Mercy

features "Lefty" Collins on guitar and "Majic Chef" on harmonica. I have been looking forward to seeing this group again for a while.

Saturday, February 19th legendary guitarist Bo Diddley will be playing at Legends in Chicago. Bo Diddley, who is best known for the song *Who Do You Love*, has influenced many guitar players including George Thorogood. Chances are that this one may sell out so if you're interested act quickly. Remember, to beat cabin fever take a dose of the Blues.



Jamming with Little Whitey and The Castlerockers.



Little Whitey blows harp.

Valentine's Day Personals

Happy Valentine's Day!

Kathy C.

Best wishes for the school year

Happy Valentine's Day!

Nick

Love Bear

Happy Valentine's Day to the
woman who always smiles

Happy Valentine's Day Cherry!

Kristen, will you be my valentine?

O.K. I was just joking, now smile
from the man who can't line dance!

Nancy, Shawna, (and Dee)

It's great to see you again. It's been
just like old times. Happy V-Day!

Joan,

You are the sun, the moon and the
stars. Shall I compare thee to a
summer's day? Or shall I just

say.....I love you babe, more than
I ever thought possible.

Your love slave, Paul

Happy Valentine's Day, Tom

You're the Best

Love Kathie

Happy Valentine's Day, Ally

Can I rub your tummy sometime?

Love from down under, Joey

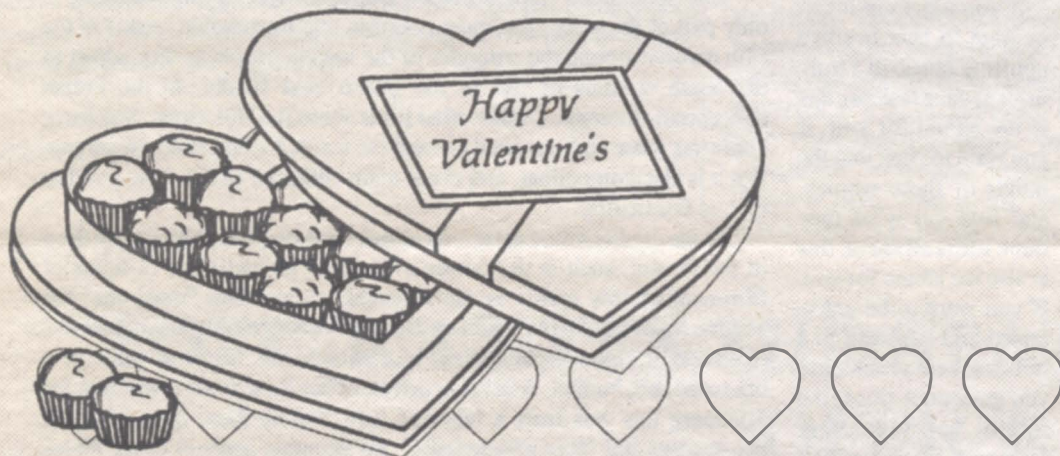
Runic Traveler--

Brave the Rain,

I stand beside you.

Face all Winds,

We embrace you.



A Quick Valentine's Day Quiz: For Men Only

by Stella

The time for last minute Valentine's gift buying once again draws near. Are you going to strike out again? Or, will you attempt to learn from your mistakes at last and go for B-I-G relationship points to boot?

Let's see, there's the candy and flowers route (too safe, too trite for the really big points), the jewelry route (too expensive), the stuffed toy route (charming, but childish), and, oh yes, the lingerie route (not for the amateur, see below).

There can be no doubt that pretty lingerie somehow resonates with the spirit of romantic intimacy and playful sexuality that this holiday has come to signify. As a result, many men will think this the perfect time to rush out to their nearest underwear dealer and purchase a skimpy, see-through, candy-colored skivvy trimmed in the feathers of some soon-to-be-extinct bird to bestow on their beloved. Many retailers will make a special appeal to these buyers by displaying racks bursting with these garments, on sale, placed near all the exit doors. But is this really the proper strategy for you?

Find out now by taking this brief diagnostic test: Imagine your loved one on a cold and frosty morning, preparing for her work day, standing before her dresser in her bare and freezing feet, frantically plumbing the depths of her underwear drawer. Suddenly, she comes across a barely remembered item, (black and red lace with feathers and garters that hung to her knees, circa 1989). She holds the garment briefly aloft and says:

(A) "Perfect! Now where are the red knee highs that went with this?"

(B) "What a randy rascal! I can't wait to see what he gets me this year!"

(C) "Hah! What a pig! All he thinks about is his own pleasure!"

If you think her answer will be (A), I can't help you, sorry. If you think her answer will be (B), you're doing fine, you don't need help. But if you think her answer might be (C), consider the following. Might it not be a better idea to get her some dainty in a color and style that she would have bought for herself and might consider wearing every day, even when you're not around? (Answer A respondents--this does not apply to you.) In short, why not get her a Valentine's gift that carries a double message: "I think of you as a sex object and a human being?" If you don't have any idea what she would like, why not ask her? Tell her you want to stop making costly gift-giving errors and you'll score points for caring even before you buy! Just remember, if you do take a shot at the perfect lingerie gift and fail, there's always next year and Fannie Mac.

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